

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 19, 21–25, the prior art fails to teach a method comprising “transmission in said first direction occurs in predetermined and fixed time slots in each of consecutive frames, and transmission in said second direction occurs in difference time slots in each of consecutive frames, wherein in said second direction, during a first frame of consecutive frames respective second transceiver devices perform transmission to said first transceiver during an assigned transmission k^{th} time slot, and during a subsequent second frame of said consecutive frames, respective second transceiver devices perform transmission to said first transceiver device during a different assigned transmission 1^{th} time slot, with $0 \leq k$, $1 \leq n-1$ and $k \neq 1$,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified as, in the independent claim 19.

Regarding claims 20, 26–30, the prior art fails to teach a method comprising “transmission in said first direction occurs in different time slots in each of consecutive frame, and transmission in said second direction occurs in

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predetermined and fixed time slots in each of consecutive frame, wherein in said first direction during a first frame of consecutive frames respective first transceiver devices perform transmission to said second transceiver device during an assigned transmission k^{th} time slot, and during a subsequent second frame of said consecutive frames, respective first transceiver devices perform transmission to said second transceiver device during a different assigned transmission 1^{th} time slot, with $0 \leq k, 1 \leq n-1$ and $k \neq 1$,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified as, in the independent claim 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUONGCHAU BA NGUYEN whose

telephone number is (571)272-3148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Firmin Backer can be reached on 571-272-6703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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